

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1852.

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

BY MRS. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

In two volumes of 312 pages each.

For thrilling delineation of character, and power of description, this work is unrivaled, it has been denominated, and with truth, the *STORY OF THE AGE!* The fact that *ten thousand copies have been sold in two weeks* is evidence sufficient of its unbounded popularity.Three paper mills are constantly at work, manufacturing the paper, and three power presses are working twenty-four hours per day, in printing it, and more than one hundred bookbinders are incessantly plying their trade, to bind them, and still it has been in the public use as yet to supply the demand. Testimonials of the strongest kind, numerous enough to fill a volume, have already appeared in the public journals. We have room only for the following, from the *Congregationalist* of the 2d inst.:

THE COMPROMISE A FINALITY.

MONDAY, the 5th instant, the Compromised resolutions were called up in the House of Representatives. Similar resolutions were introduced into the Democratic caucus at once, and John Skinner, of Wyoming, delegate for the State at large to the Baltimore Convention.

WE conceive, then, that in writing "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Harriet Beecher Stowe has done a service to the public, and to the cause of freedom, and to the sluggish nation to shake off the curse, and the wrongs than has been accomplished by the efforts of a unanimous and energetic public documents, and the last ten years have been the witness of. Let nobody be afraid of it because it does not claim to be a memoir, or a table of statistics. It is the history of a nation's wrongs, and the very minuteness of infinite atrocities, which no extreme view. It does not seek to set up the most horrible atrocities, and brand the whole system as worse than it is; it is fair, and generous, and can, and ought to, have held up, and to have won, anger, easily without a severe abhorrence of the system which he himself upholds. It brings out, quietly and collaterally, those inadmissible features which are usually little thought of, but which are really the very cup of abominations. We look upon the writing of this book as providential, and upon it as the best missionary God has yet sent into the land of the slaves, to impress the unenlightened children of the South. Such a book will be the seal of the age, and *had* to be written, and we are grateful to God that we put the writing of it into the hands of one who has interwoven it with the spirit of the age, and the power of its narrative, and composed many a group to its appeal to our sympathies in genuine. It artfully pictures the soul, and the facts make us feel. We doubt if any man has the human being who can read it through, with dry eyes, is com-mended to Barnum.

Copies of this work are for sale at this office—price in paper covers, \$1; cloth, \$1.50; cloth, full gilt, \$2.

Persons at a distance of not over 500 miles can have this work in paper covers mailed to them, *free of postage*, on addressing L. Clephane at this office, and enclosing \$1 in money and 27 cents in post office stamps—over 500 miles the postage will be 5 cents.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—WHAT VIRGINIA WANTS.

A report lately made to the Senate by the Committee on Claims, upon the petition of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company, in Virginia, discloses some curious facts.

The object of the petition is to induce Congress to pay to the Railroad Company one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, being the sum which Virginia in 1789 agreed to pay to the General Government, in consideration of the establishment of the Seat of Government on the banks of the Potomac. Virginia does not now demand this sum for re-payment; she has used her claim—and the directly Golphin she was not more baseless—but the Railroad Company, in whose behalf it is urged upon Congress.

The report of the committee goes fully into the history of the establishment of the Seat of Government. It appears that its location on the Potomac was the first of those compromises between Slavery and Capital, which have marked our history.

The representatives of money capital, chiefly from the North, under the lead of Alexander Hamilton, were extremely anxious in 1789 to induce Congress to assume and fund the State debt. This was resisted strenuously by the representatives of the slave capital. At that time and on that occasion the representatives of money threatened secession and dissolution. The representatives of slavery heard these threats unmoved; and, aided by the Northern opponents of money capital, rejected the assumption bill.

Hamilton, under these circumstances, saw the assumption bill, and thus save the Union.

They took the appeal very coolly. It was said upon conference that some mutual concessions could be suggested as the basis of a compromise which would save the Union. The conference took place. Congress had previously determined to establish the permanent Seat of Government in Pennsylvania. A bill with this object had passed both Houses, but had failed in consequence of a disagreement as to some minor points in a late period of the session. The old State had contended earnestly for a location on the Potomac, and were greatly disconcerted with the prospect that it would be fixed in a free State. The foresight, and later experience has abundantly demonstrated to the world that the slave interest would prevail from the possession of the Seat of Government.

Under these circumstances it was not difficult to find a basis for a compromise. Free-State representatives were found to vote for fixing the Seat of Government on the Potomac, and slave-State representatives to vote for the assumption of the State debts. In conformity with this arrangement, a bill fixing the Seat of Government on the Potomac was maturing in the Senate, passed by body, and received the sanction of the House. The bill for the assumption of State debts was revived in the House, and finally became a law.

Virginia and Maryland had each agreed to contribute, Virginia one hundred and twenty, and Maryland seventy-two thousand dollars, towards erecting the public buildings, provided Congress should establish the Seat of Government in the Potomac, in either State, or so as to include parts of both.

This was no extraordinary liberality. New York and Pennsylvania had furnished accommodations for the Government, gratuitously, while its seat was within their limits. Baltimore offered to defray the expenses of the necessary buildings, should that city be selected.

The bill proposed, which fixed the Seat of Government in Pennsylvania, which came so near to becoming a law, had required as a condition precedent, the payment for these same purposes of one hundred thousand dollars by the State or its citizens.

The Seat of Government was established on the Potomac. Maryland and Virginia, with some delay, paid the stipulated money. Within a few years past, Virginia has regained, by the cession of the United States, all the territory she ceded; and now comes, through a Railroad Company, and asks back the money thus contributed.

It is a remarkable illustration of chivalry. The facts which attended the establishment of the national capital in the midst of slavery furnish an illustration equally remarkable of

the compromises between slave capital and money capital, nominally for the safety of the Union, but really for the perpetuation of their power, joint or several, over labor and the laboring masses.

Those who desire further information on this subject can consult Senate Document No. 59, 32d Congress, first session, and the first volume of Hildreth's History, second series. ***

THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW.

The side is against it. In some of the Legislatures that have been engaged upon it, it has been defeated, in others it drags. Within the last week the general election of Connecticut has gone constructively against it, and the Pennsylvania Legislature, after cutting it down to a thirty-gallon law in the Senate, has killed it on the first vote in the lower House. The movement is one of surpassing interest. It would be hard to find a subject of greater moment to the community than the special interests, and the broad principle into which the proposed prohibitory legislation rises, has scarcely a parallel, either for importance or difficulty. The form of the proposed government is so clearly known, as to its jurisdiction and limitation in this direction, it is not now less simplified and demarcated than ever for popular creed and criticism in the discussion. The debate has kept ends and objects very clearly in view, for both parties that are actuated in the field see immediate results plainly enough; but the ethical and governmental principles concerned in the contemplated legal enactments are not so plainly and effectively arrayed as they must be before the question shall be finally settled, and the public mind at rest in such settlement.

A large party of the friends of legal prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors, content themselves with the reasons to be found in the will of intemperance, and the infinite good promised in its suppression. This is ground broad enough for reformatory association and moral suasion; but the matter of legal coercion rests upon quite other considerations. Duty in the restraint of wrong and furtherance of right may be a plain question in the conduct of private life; but in the exercise of authority over others, it is admitted that adequate powers do not always accompany the highest and noblest aims. Providence waits upon the world in its wretchedness and wickedness, under a necessity that the uses of the constitution of the Constitution stand as the agent and exponent of that Providence, as we hereby declare it to be, and that the ministry of the Church and State, to sustain the laws necessary to effect the end proposed, and the act of the last Congress for that purpose included; and that we defer all further agitation of the question of the right of the last Congress to know, as to the propriety of the question of questions generally connected with the institution of slavery, an unnecessary, useless, and dangerous? This resolution was adopted—years 101, nay, 96. The following is an analysis of the question?

YEAS.

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